

Your Connection To The State Reg Flex Community

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In This Issue

- Louisiana Enacts Small Business Reg Flex
- Lt. Gov. Bolling Chairs Virginia Task Force
- Tell Us Your Story: Write An Article For The State Reg Flex Roundup

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Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Initiative

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Office of Advocacy State Reg Flex Roundup

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Louisiana Enacts Small Business Reg Flex

The Louisiana legislature recently passed, and Governor Bobby Jindal has signed House Bill 368, the "Small Business Regulatory Flexibility Act". The law requires Louisiana state agencies to develop a small business economic impact statement when proposing new regulations. It also requires state agencies to notify small businesses of the costs associated with the proposed new rules.

The law will improve the current regulatory process by requiring agencies to send notification to interested parties who have requested it. The Louisiana Economic Development Department (LED) will be the agency housing the regulatory flexibility review process envisioned by HB 368.

The bill's primary author, Representative Rickey Nowlin (Natchitoches), the Department of Economic Development, and small business trade groups worked together to find this common sense approach to regulatory reform. Rep. Nowlin's goal is for state agencies to help small businesses rather than putting up roadblocks with confusing and duplicative regulations.

Several trade associations supported passage of HB 368, and they have applauded Governor Bobby Jindal for signing the legislation. The associations include the National Federation of Independent Business/Louisiana, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, Associated Builders and Contractors, and the Baton Rouge Area Chamber.

Renee Baker, state director of NFIB/Louisiana said, "regulatory reform and flexibility was one of our top priorities this legislative session. Depending on the industry, a business may be regulated by the state and by every parish and every town where it operates, costing it thousands of dollars a year in fees and legal costs. NFIB/Louisiana's members are mostly entrepreneurs and small, family-owned businesses. They aren't giant corporations with enormous legal departments to make sense of new rules and regulations. They deserve a chance to respond to proposed new regulations that could cost them money and hurt their ability to grow and create jobs."

For more information: Renee Baker, renee.baker@nfib.org

Lt. Gov. Bolling Chairs Virginia Task Force

Attorney General Bob McDonnell has appointed Lieutenant Governor Bill Bolling to serve as Co-Chair of the Attorney General's Government and Regulatory Reform Task Force. In addition, McDonnell announced that Bolling will chair a newly created Working Group on Infrastructure in Virginia.

Attorney General McDonnell noted in a statement, "the regulatory and statutory burdens to promptly building roads, bridges, college buildings and other educational facilities must be evaluated. It takes too much time and money to build infrastructure in the modern age. I look forward to working with the Lieutenant Governor, and continuing to work with Chairman Jack Rust, as we go through the Virginia Administrative Code to identify and eliminate excessive, redundant and unnecessary government regulations."

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Lieutenant Governor Bolling remarked, "Sometimes misguided regulations, or regulations that become antiquated over time, can serve as an impediment to building a better Virginia. I look forward to working with the members of the Task Force to weed out unnecessary and overly burdensome regulations and make certain that government is working for the people of Virginia."

Attorney General McDonnell's Government and Regulatory Reform Task Force is conducting a systematic review of state regulations with the goal of minimizing adverse impacts on commerce and society while preserving the important public safety, health and welfare protections that many of the regulations provide. To date, the Task Force has recommended 236 regulations for elimination or streamlining.

For more information: Randy Marcus, randy.marcus@ltgov.virginia.gov

Tell Us Your Story: Write An Article For The State Reg Flex Roundup

The state reg flex community (www.sba.gov/advo/laws/law_modeleg.html) would like to know how small business regulatory flexibility is working in your state.

Have you introduced and passed legislation or has the governor signed an executive order? How are you implementing the law, and what challenges have you encountered? Are you involving small business owners and their representatives in regulatory flexibility, and if so, how? What are you doing to train and inform state agencies about their responsibilities?

Tell us more about these issues by submitting a short (250 words) article for publication. Be sure to include full contact information, including websites, so that others around the country can learn from your experiences.

To submit an article for the State Reg Flex Roundup, send an email to John McDowell at john.mcdowell@sba.gov or call 202-205-6941. Submissions of news releases from the past several months are welcome.

For more information: John McDowell, john.mcdowell@sba.gov